



WPR/RC77

Agenda Item 11: Immunization

Honourable Delegates,

On behalf of the Public Services International (PSI), we thank the WHO Regional Committee for this opportunity to speak on Agenda 11 on Immunization. PSI is a global union federation representing more than 300 million workers from 700 unions in 154 countries, including health workers and Community Health Workers. Since 1907, PSI has championed workers' rights, social justice and quality public services.

PSI welcomes the WHO's *Regional Plan to Accelerate Immunization Progress in the Western Pacific* and underscores the importance of decent work among primary health workers such as Community Health Workers (CHWs). CHWs, including myself, are essential bridges between health systems and communities. We help identify unvaccinated children, support vaccination campaigns, and strengthen public confidence in vaccines. Yet in many countries, CHWs, predominantly women, continue to work as volunteers or in insecure arrangements, often receiving poverty-level wages or allowances, with limited social protection, insufficient training, and exposure to occupational hazards, including communicable diseases. CHWs are also often absent from health workforce data, which limits our visibility in workforce planning, financing, and policy decisions despite our essential contributions. These conditions weaken CHW recruitment, retention, and capacity, undermining immunization efforts and the delivery of essential primary health care.

Thus, we call on Member States to strengthen the recognition, compensation, training and support of CHWs as part of immunization and primary health care programs, in line with the [WHO Guidelines on Health Policy and System Support to Optimise Community Health Worker Programmes](#). We further urge the region and Member States to ensure CHW and primary health care worker representation in national and regional immunization technical advisory groups. Lastly, the only way to achieve immunization outcomes is if Community Health Workers are unionised, have decent working conditions and are empowered to play a meaningful role in programme delivery.

Thank you.